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Issue of search warrant by a panchayat court in the case of thefts of property worth less than Rs. 10.

* 210 Q.—Mr. K. R. Karant: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether in the case of thefts of property less than Rs. 10 in value a panchayat court has no jurisdiction or power to issue a search warrant and obtain possession of the stolen property;

(b) whether in such cases the Police, if required by the panchayat court, do not give the necessary assistance to the court; and

(c) whether Government propose to remedy the defect and see that the potail of the village or the president of the panchayat court is authorized to issue search warrants in such cases?

A.—(a) Village panchayat courts are not empowered to issue search warrants and obtain possession of stolen property.

(b) The Government have no information.

(c) The suggestion will be considered.

Assignment of Lands

Procedure in transferring possession of lands assigned to depressed classes.

* 211 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether in the Bellary district when members of depressed classes express a desire to the Labour Officers who visit their village that they want any of the assessed or poramboke fields in the occupation of caste ryots as sivayijama cultivators, the Labour Officers get the caste ryots to vacate the said fields and transfer possession of the same to the concerned applicants from the depressed classes even before the necessary formalities required under the darkhast rules are gone through and regular assignments are made; and

(b) if so, the authority under which the Labour Officers try to effect the said transfer of possession?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have not the information asked for. They have called for a report.

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"Sir, I just want to know whether a report has since been received."

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell:—"No, Sir."

Constitution of Districts

Proposed reamalgamation of Kistna and West Godavari districts.

* 212 Q.—Mr. V. Ramjee Rao: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to reamalgamate the Kistna and West Godavari districts;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, at what stage the question stands;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government have referred the question to the respective district Collectors for opinion and, if so, what the opinion received is?

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A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know whether the Collectors of Kistna or West Godavari have recommended the amalgamation ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" I did not catch the hon. Member's question."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know whether the Collectors of Kistna or West Godavari have written to the Government to the effect that the work is too light for each district and therefore the two districts should be amalgamated ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" No such recommendation has reached the Government."

Floods

Damages by floods in the Presidency.

* 213 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to place before the Council a statement showing—

(*a*) the havoc caused by floods in several places in the Presidency in 1928–29 and in 1929 up to the end of July in the form of loss of human lives, loss of cattle, collapse of houses and damage to crops ;

(*b*) the extent of charity relief afforded by Government or public bodies or by private individuals ;

(*c*) the advances of money given by Government as loans for re-building houses, for removing silt from fields and repairing damages to crops caused by floods ; and

(*d*) the remission of assessment that was made either wholly or partly ?

A.—(*a*) A statement is attached.[a]

(*b*) *Floods in the East Godavari and Vizagapatam districts.*—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the orders of the Government which were placed on the table of the House on 26th November 1928.

The Flood Relief Committee, Vizagapatam, spent a sum of Rs. 4,56[illegible]-8-1 on the supply of rice, cloths and house building materials. In addition, the Committee placed at the disposal of the Collector a sum of Rs. 2,000 for the provision of new house-sites. The East Godavari Central Flood Relief Committee also gave relief to persons affected by the floods by distributing cloths, blankets, implements, and so forth.

Floods in the West Godavari district.—A sum of Rs. 500 sanctioned by the Board of Revenue and a sum of Rs. 109 out of the Collector's discretionary grant were expended in relief.

Floods in the South Kanara district.—The Government are awaiting a further report from the Collector of the district.

Floods in the Malabar district.—The Collector reported on 24th July 1929 that there was no occasion for any special measures of relief. He had already requested the Board of Revenue to

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a Printed as Appendix II on page 571 infra.